

COCA TIMES

VOLUME 10
ISSUE 2
JULY, 2008
\$14.95

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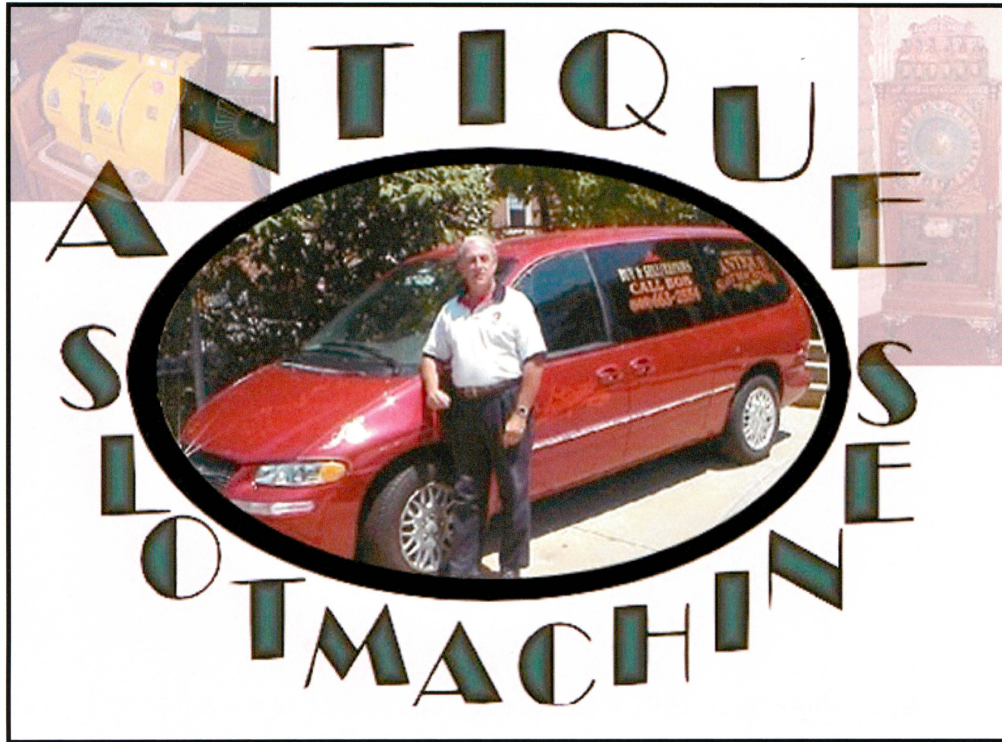
The Caille Money Back Scale

by Johnny Duckworth



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Message from Our President...

Hello to all of you and welcome to all of the new members. We have been averaging about one new member a week this year and we are all glad you decided to join the club.

One member recently told me that what he liked most about our club is that it is INCLUSIVE and NOT EXCLUSIVE. He appreciated that all members were welcome at all of our events. He liked being welcome and wanted. I think we all like that feeling. Keep up the good work.

It has only been ten short years since we lost our best coin-op historian and writer, Richard M. Bueschel. Dick's multitude of books and magazine articles continue to inspire and educate all coin operated machine collectors. During those ten years, what started as a group of guys swapping stories in front of the elevators at the Pheasant Run Hotel has grown to 622 members. In 2001 we published our first color magazine and launched our website. We will hold our fifth annual convention in New York City this September. I know that Dick is looking down at all of us with pride and guiding us to that next great find.

Doug Cain, Treasurer, has set up a PayPal account which will be available for next year's dues payments due in November of 2008. An email will be sent to all members in September with information about this new option. This will also serve as a test of the email addresses on file. We currently do not have email addresses for 149 members and know that many others need to be updated. Anyone wishing to receive email from the club needs to make sure their email address is on file and correct by sending an email to Doug at coinop.doug@gmail.com. Your email address will NOT be published and we promise not to spam you. We will also be asking you to update all of your contact information this fall when we send out the dues invoices. By updating your information now we hope to send out as many invoices as possible via email to help offset the cost of PayPal.

Thanks to the Blaus, Cains, and Ernsters for helping with our very successful April dinner meeting and to featured speaker Marshall Fey. We plan to continue this format on Friday November 14 at the Hilton Garden Inn, St. Charles IL. Check our website later this summer for full fall meeting details. Special room rates at the Hilton are \$95 single and \$98 double. Call the hotel at 630-584-0700 and identify yourself as a COCA member to get these rates.

I'd also like to thank all of our magazine advertisers. Without them our magazine could not be published. Please support our advertisers!

If you have any questions or comments please contact me via the email COCA's President section in the discussion forum or call me at 919-304-4455 from 8A.M to 8 P.M Eastern.

Bill Petrochuk
COCA President



DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: **AUGUST 12, 2008**

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The Caille Money Back Scale

by Johnny Duckworth

Here's a great looking oak model "Caille" money back scale. This rare scale was purchased around 40 years ago at auction near Pittsburg, Kansas for the sum of \$35. When I heard about the scale last year located in Texas I had to have it. The guy had no interest in selling the scale because it was part of his family after 40 years. He told me he was looking for a Simplex motorcycle as he had once owned one in his younger years and laughed that if I had one he might trade. I decided the only way I would ever get that scale from him was to find an old Simplex motorcycle and try to make a trade. I went out searching and finally located a very nice original Simplex which I knew he wouldn't be able to pass up. I sent him pictures of that Simplex and after a phone call to my surprise he didn't want a nice original motorcycle he wanted a freshly restored one. I felt at that point I had tried every way I knew to obtain this scale and it was just not going to happen as he had no intention of selling.

I had all but gave up when I received a phone call weeks later and he told me he had located a restored Simplex which he wanted in Alabama and if I would be willing to buy that motorcycle for him he would give me the scale. I couldn't believe it; I was



finally going to get the scale and the deal was made. I contacted a very good friend of mine in Texas who was able to drive over that Saturday, pay him the price of the Simplex, and pick the scale up before he came to his senses.



I had always wanted to find a nice gambling scale and this one had such a great look along with the Caille name to boot. The glass around the scale face is glue chipped just as the upright floor machines of that period. The

scale glass has big maroon letters which state "Money Back Scale" and the Caille company initials are found in the lower corners. This big machine almost looks like an old grandfather clock standing just over 6 feet tall with its curved wood top. The scale face shows charts for men and women but then goes into more detail with the boys and girls. The big cast iron plate above the pin field reads "watch where your money goes" and the center chute in the pin field is labeled "money back". The pin field is located right in the center of the machine and when you drop your penny in the scale it will fall down and bounce through this area. If you get lucky and the penny hits the center money back chute a set of bells inside will ding as the penny



falls into the payout cup below. This would be the gambling feature of the machine as you are trying to get your penny back and your weight for free.



The scale is very interesting and also has a metal tag on the front below the pin field which states property of the Yale Operating Company 720 Main Kansas City, Missouri where it was located. The Yale Amusement Company resided at 720 main be-

ginning in 1904 and later in 1914 they changed the name to the Yale Arcade Theater. This theater building at 720 Main actually opened in 1898 and was the pioneer for moving picture theaters in Kansas City. It was the first of its kind and among the first in the United States. The theater held 75 seats with no side arms or cushions and the films ranged from 100 to 300 feet in length.

The Kansas City Star on May 28th 1916 talks about the old Yale Theater closing its doors and running the last picture. It also had this to say about the theater in the newspaper article which I had to share with you; and no I didn't make it up, "The patrons who saw the last picture explored their way through the same magical surroundings that in ancient days attracted the pleasure seekers to the new, the ultimate thrill. For the way has always led through a room filled with penny slot machines, some of which, with their quickly flopping cards, were the predecessors of the movie picture."

One clear answer to the date of the scale is right on the face as it reads "made only by the Caille Company 206 Randolph street Detroit U.S.A." Adolph Caille started out as a Coin Machine Manufacturer in 1897, working out of his home at 96 Park Place. The next year the company opened its doors at 24 Gratiot where it remained until 1902 when it moved to 1427 Woodward. The Caille Company was located



at 206 Randolph street in 1903 and then in 1904 was moved for the last time to 1300 Second St. where it remained.

I have tried to locate this scale in the old Caille catalogs but I have had no luck. I don't believe many were ever produced as this is the only known model to ever surface. This style money back scale model would have been

replaced by the later George Washington Scale which could also be purchased in a money back version.

It's always so exciting to hunt for these old machines but when you can find out some history to go along with the machine it all comes together. If you want to share some information on these old coin operated machines you

can contact me at Johnny@kccoinop.com or through my website www.kccoinop.com.



ABT PLAYBALL VENDOR

By Bill Howard



The ABT Playball Vendor counter top baseball machine is quite rare and appears on page 151 of my book, Every Picture Tells a Story. Manufactured in 1924 by the ABT Company, it enjoyed little marketing success. Proof of its limited distribution is the fact that only one ad for this machine has surfaced, in a small corner layout on the top of page 207 of the December 13, 1924, issue of Billboard. I have found that the frequency of manufacturer ads for these machines can tell you a lot about their distribution and resulting rarity. In those days the absence of any marketing forum as we know today caused companies to utilize trade journals, and to produce machines in an amount dictated by the response. No great response via orders, no more productions, and thus no more ads.

Obviously, some of these rare machines are due to the fact that they were "dogs," bad ideas in the first place. Put another

way, "rare" does not always translate into "desirable" in the eyes of today's coin machine collector. This, however, is not the case with the ABT Playball Vendor. First, it is most attractive with its bright aluminum playfield full of four funny baseball fielders ready to catch the balls as hit by the player as the game progresses. The object is to get four colored balls in the corresponding colored bases to win a prize, and the game is quite fun to play. You always got a gumball, and the machine makes the outrageous boast that this "preserves the teeth." And of course, it is an early 1920's baseball game. Add all these features up and you have a very rare, desirable and valuable machine. Only three are known to exist.

I was privileged to have had the opportunity to purchase the example pictured many years ago at Chicagoland from friend and dealer Paul Hindin.

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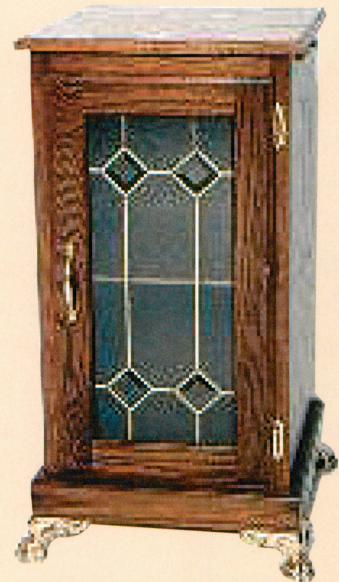
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Topsy-Turvy over Sweeney Todd

by John Peterson

My success at finding unusual British coin-op games surprises even me from time to time. Today's story is one such example.

Several weeks ago, I was cruising Ebay looking for the good, the bad and the ugly. Like many collectors of more modest means, I do not shy away from a machine that “needs work.” I enjoy the challenge of bringing some poor orphan back to health and the price discount is an added attraction. I have been stung in the past, getting in over my head with a restoration that is beyond my capabilities but that is part of the risk you take when you purchase an item known to be less than perfect. (I won't go into the cases where an item is deliberately misrepresented. That is a story for another day.)



Photo A

The item I was looking at was a coin-flip by the name “Topsy Turvy Derby.” Perhaps you saw it advertised? Take a look at Photo “A.” Let me take time here to sing the praises of another COCA member, Greg McLemore and his “International Arcade Museum” web site. If you have not been to the site, you're missing out on a terrific resource tool. Whenever I find an American machine that I do not recognize, I go immediately to Greg's site and see if I can track down the game. Greg provides a terrific public service and we all are in his debt for his efforts to educate and promote the hobby.

The more discriminating among you might be asking, “What is this British game-nut doing looking at American games in the first place?” This is a fair question. My answer is that I look at everything. Part of what fascinates me about this hobby is the opportunity to research items with which I am not familiar. There is more opportunity for research into the English-made games since much less is known about them, particularly here in America. Also, although I rarely purchase

an American coin-op piece, I am interested in all the different machines that were made, whether they are English, European or American. I just happen to love the British games more.

When I saw “Topsy Turvy Derby” offered for bid on Ebay, I went to “International Arcade Museum” to see what I could find. What I discovered was there are no books containing a picture of this game. “Topsy Turvy Derby” was listed as one of those machines that was “on a list of games made from 1931 to 1939 which was published in the January 1940 issue of the Coin Machine Journal,” quote-unquote from the International Arcade Museum site. That suggested to me the game might be fairly rare. As I looked more closely at the picture on Ebay, I realized the machine was actually a Fields “5 Jacks” with the top marquee missing. In its place, someone had attached the “Topsy Turvy Derby” metal marquee.

I must admit, I love pieces that are mis-identified. I wrote to the seller and told him my suspicions and asked him to examine the top of the case for signs that the single metal casting original to “5 Jacks” had been broken away and the “Topsy Turvy Derby” marquee added after the fact. He wrote back to me and confirmed that I was correct. Being a man of integrity, the seller corrected his listing and thanked me for my sharp eye. Being a British game-nut, I did not bid on the piece and for those interested, it did not sell. No one offered the initial asking price.

After the auction closed, the seller of “Topsy Turvy Derby” emailed me and inquired what it was I collected. When I responded, “English coin-op machines,” he replied, “I have a British game that I've had for a long time.”

Let's pause here for a moment. What do you think was running through my mind at that very instant? If you guessed, “Find out what this fellow has, at all costs!” then you are correct. I asked for a photo plus description and what came back was Photo “B.” What



Photo B

you are looking at is a rare working model by Freddie Bolland called “Hell’s Kitchen” from the late 1940’s to early 1950’s.

The “working model” is a very narrow field of British coin-op that has no true American counter-part. The closest cousin in our inventory would be the arcade pieces like “Peppy the Clown,” but even its name suggests the pathetic nature of the comparison; we are clowns when compared to these fabulous British machines. “Peppy” merely jumps about in response to basic inputs from the customer. The true British work-

ing model is a virtual diorama of activity, all of which is compelling subject matter, sometimes comedic and sometimes tragic but never boring. “The Drunkard’s Dream” and “The Execution” invite the visitor to deposit the required coin into the slot. Then, like the carnival barker, the machine goes into action, drawing us inexorably closer to see the amazing story unfolding just behind the glass.

The first English working models appeared around the turn of the 20th Century in Great Britain. These early models utilized clock-wound automatons originally produced by French clockmakers. These active figures were incorporated into wood cases and surrounded by supporting scenery to tell a story. As time passed, English artisans began producing home-grown pieces for their own domestic market. One of the earliest manufacturers was John Dennison of Leeds. His first machines were clock-wound models that dated from the 1880’s. His early pieces involved subject matter like “The Wonder Musical Fairy Fortune Teller” and “Mother Shipton,” another fortune teller. He also produced domestic scenes as well, like “Poor Father,” a father taking care of a baby while the mother sleeps, and “The Miser,” a Scrooge-like character haunted by apparitions. All of Dennison’s working models were handmade and of very high quality.

John Dennison died in 1924. One of the things that make his story interesting is that his three daughters carried on the business after he passed away. In some cases, they modified models previously made by their

father, changing them from clock-wound mechanical power to electricity. In other instances, they changed the scene within the original machine to portray a different story. After several years of running the business, the girls began producing new machines of their own creation. The Dennison working models are highly respected and highly sought after to this day.

The working model had other manufacturers as well. One of the best known was Freddy Bolland of London. Starting out as an operator, Freddy expanded his business in the 1930’s to include sales of coin-operated machines. After WW II commenced, Freddy ran an arcade in Wales. When the War ended, he moved back to London and began acquiring stock from other operators. During the war, rationing had a severe impact on arcades. For one thing, manufacturers were unable to produce new machines due to the severe restrictions on all metals and materials for any use other than the war effort. In a related area, the normal toys and candy put as prizes into crane games, (what the British call “grabbers”) evaporated. As a result, crane games became useless. Operators, unable to find any product for their grabbers, sought to get rid of them. Freddy had the foresight to appreciate the opportunity presented. He went around and bought up all the Exhibit Supply

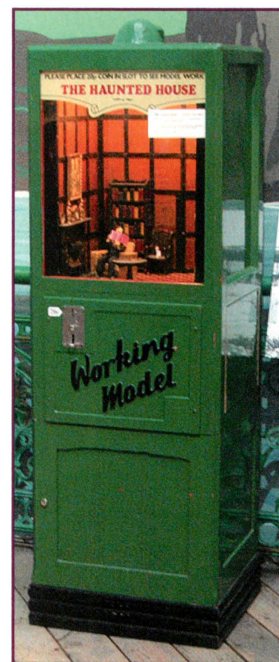


Photo C

cranes he could at ridiculously low prices. Using the cases and the gearing inside the cranes, he fashioned a whole line of working models. Most of the themes for these machines exploited the frailties of the human condition. His more famous titles are self-explanatory: The Drunkard’s Dream; The Miser; The Burglar; The French Execution and so forth. Photo “C” is a Bolland’s working model entitled “The Haunted House” in an original Exhibit Supply case.

If you’ve been following my stories these past several years, you know that my fascination with British machines stems in no small part from my appreciation for their “humanity” with the lower case “h.” In many instances, this humanity is evidenced by the small numbers produced of any one machine, all hand-crafted by artisans in diminutive workshops



Photo D

up, Freddy was forced to manufacture his own cases. He and his son did so into the 1970's, building cases that looked like a more modernized version of the original 1930's Exhibit Supply casework with the addition of a clown face at the very apex of the case. See Photo "D" for an example of the later clown case housing a space ship themed machine.

Enter Sweeney Todd and Johnny Depp. Have you seen the latest offering from Tim Burton, "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" starring Johnny Depp? If you like musicals and/or Depp, you must see this film. Dearly Beloved loves both. She has

openly stated that she would leave me in a New York minute if Johnny Depp ever raised his pirate eyebrow in her direction. Fortunately for me, Mr. Depp lives in France.

My Ebay friend had an original Bolland working model in a Bonzini and Sopransi French



Photo E

crane case titled "Hell's Kitchen." The theme of this machine is essentially the story of Sweeney Todd. (Story spoiler; if you haven't seen the movie and plan to do so, stop reading

around the country. In the case of working models, I think this humanity is well represented by the fact that Freddy Dennison made do with whatever he could find, utilizing useless American crane games by Exhibit Supply to house and operate the majority of his early working models. If he could not find American cranes, he was happy to adapt French crane games as well. When the supply of both American and French cranes finally dried



Photo F

now.) "Photo "E" is a close-up of the two doors behind which all the action takes place. Photo "F" is the left side door open into the castle. Inside, you see a poor fellow having his head cut off by the executioner. The ghoul saws away until the head falls off and drops into the basket at the foot of the bench. The left side door closes and the right side door opens. The next movement is the opening of the door to the chimney-oven. Inside the oven, the top of the cooking pot rises, pushed up by the severed head that is being cooked inside the pot, Photo "G." The door to the oven closes and the Devil, Photo "H" swings into view, displaying the head as a pie. The writing under the Devil's platter blithely assures us, "No pain." Whew! That's reassuring.



Photo G

vealed that he purchased this terrific game 35 years ago at an auction in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. According to the seller, the auction contained many British arcade games. (Author's note. This agrees with my research that found a large number of British arcade pieces making their

way to the States in the late 1960's and early '70's.) After the Ebay seller purchased "Hell's Kitchen" at auction he found himself unable to transport it home, lacking a vehicle large enough to accommodate the machine. He first called his wife and told her he had won a large British game at an auction. She asked, "What is it?" He replied, "I don't know; it cuts off heads." He then called her father to see if his father-in-law would loan out the use of his station wagon for transport. The father called his daughter to get more information on what this machine was and she replied, "He's gone nuts. He's bought a guillotine." They were expect-

What's not to love about an arcade machine that celebrates the dismemberment of some poor fool and the subsequent culinary delight of devil's food pie? Further discussion with the seller re-



Photo H

ing their first child and space in their small house was at a premium. In spite of either obstacles or good common sense, he brought "Hell's Kitchen" home where it entertained one and all from 1973 until 2008.

In the face of such a wonderful story, how could I pass up this magnificent piece? Besides, through research I knew this "Kitchen" to be one of only four. Prior to my discovery of this machine, only three were known to exist and this one was rarer yet, being the only one in a French case. We went back and forth and eventually came to an agreeable price. "Hell's Kitchen" now resides at my house, reminding all who view it that no one is totally without redeeming social value; you can always serve your fellow man as a tasty pie. I also like to remind Dearly Beloved that I now have my very own Johnny Depp and he dances to my tune!

All my stories have a moral. This story is no different. We enjoy a hobby where accurate information is many times treated as a premium to be hoarded and used only for personal gain. Had I done so here, it is doubtful that I would ever have discovered "Hell's Kitchen." On the other hand, you can share your knowledge with those around you, enriching others who might share your interest in the wonders of coin-op. The return to you may be as surprising as it was to me. As I discovered, it can be a real topsy-turvy world.

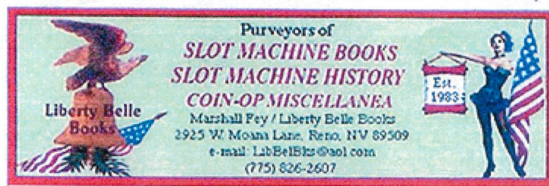
THE END

Post Script: I am indebted to a recent publication for much of the information contained in this article. Last year author Darren Hesketh published the seminal work on working models in his book PENNY-IN-THE-SLOT AUTOMATA AND THE WORKING MODEL. A copy of this book is available from fellow COCA member and all-around good guy, Roger Hilden at Crow River Trading Company.

As always, I invite comments. You may reach me at HYPERLINK "mailto:jp4@charter.net" jp4@charter.net or (952) 891-2312. If you have a working model or know of one, I would like to hear from you. There is an effort underway to compile a list of all known machines. Thank you in advance for your help.

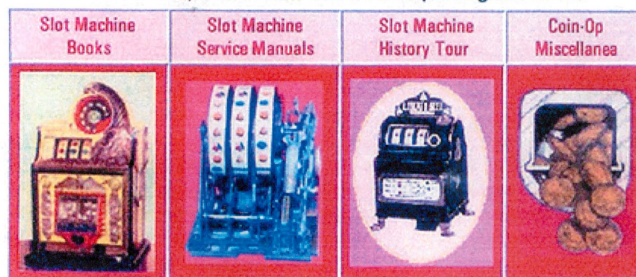
Next time I hope to get back to the subject of war games, unless something more tasty occurs in the meantime.

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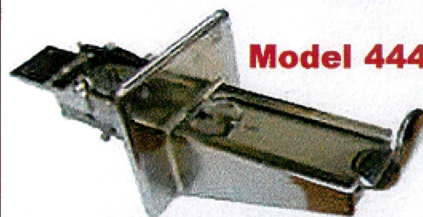
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CHICAGOLAND SLOT MACHINE, ADVERTISING & JUKE BOX SHOW BUYERS AND SELLERS GET EARLY START

By Jack Kelly

The doors didn't open until 7 a.m. for early buyers at the semi-annual Chicagoland Antique Advertising, Slot Machine and Juke Box Show in St. Charles, Ill., on April 4.

But hundreds of dealers and shoppers swarmed into the parking lot at Pheasant Run Resort as early as 4 a.m. armed with flashlights to "snag some bargains before the sun comes up" according to one bleary-eyed shopper.

Slot machines, juke boxes, amusement rides, pinball machines, advertising signs, gumball/peanut vendors, carousel horses and even motorcycles and race cars spilled out onto the pavement in the first few hours before daylight.

At 7 a.m. the early buyers forked over \$50 each to shop while dealers set up inside for the three-day event, April 4-6, with Saturday and Sunday visitors paying a more modest \$7 entry fee.

Once inside, visitors could view, touch, feel and maybe even purchase some of what one called "the darnedest menagerie of neat fun stuff ever assembled in one spot."

Shoppers with deep pockets, and those who came to just "ooh and ahh," stopped to admire an early 1900s 5-foot 5-inch-tall quartersawn oak Seeburg KT nickelodeon Music Machine offered by Frank Zygmunt, Westmont, Ill. The handsome device automatically played a xylophone, piano, Cassettes, drum, triangle and cymbals all for \$22,500. Two different early 1900s Caille upright slots carried price tags of \$34,900 and \$125,000! Those with a smaller budget could shop the same spot and choose from several dozen countertop slot machines priced in the low thousands and up.

Vending machines that were called "rare and from my personal collection" were shown by dealer Paul Hindin, of Mequon, WI. They included a turn of century wall-mounted metal Pansy Gum Vendor said to be "one of three known" that offered a love letter, your fortune and gum – all for one penny. The device could hang in your home for \$14,500. A 28-inch-tall "very desirable" 1930s porcelain gum vending case only was

offered for \$2,995. Basketball collectors checked out his 1930s E.E. Jr. basketball game with stand offering a chance to shoot three gumballs into a basket. If you made the basket, you got the gumball.

It was "strictly a fun buying experience" for two Winnipeg, Manitoba, shoppers who came to Chicagoland not to sell – but only buy. The couple, Dave Gaudet and Janet Stewart, filled a list of wanted items for their juke box collection and "to catch up for fun time with friends."

Gaudet purchased a top hat for \$10 at the nearby Kane County Flea Market and while perching it on his head, proclaimed himself the "Mayor of Chicagoland."

Russ and Joan Newman, along with son Sam, brought a selection of restored soda pop machines to the Chicagoland show. An early 1960s Vendo 63 was offered for \$2,900, a mid-50s Cavalier '72 for \$3,900 and a Vendo '81 priced \$4,900. Besides soda machines displayed at the show the family has "another 50-60 in process of being restored."

Another father and son team set up at the show traveling from Medina, Ohio. John Fifer said he purchased a peanut machine for 23-year-old son Brian two years earlier and added with a laugh, "since then he's been like a squirrel let loose in a nut factory." The younger Fifer pointed with pride to a cast iron 1915 Climax 10 peanut machine priced at \$2,800 and a cast iron Griswold Red Star Peanut machine for \$3,200. Both men gave the event high marks for both buying and selling.

Fellow Ohio dealer Bill Lippay of Strongsville showed off a fully restored one penny QT slot machine for \$2,250 and a table full of coin operated trade stimulators priced from \$425 to \$1,050. Lippay said he restored the QT slot himself, putting about "fifty hours into the project."

Dale Robinson, part of the Robinson family that runs the famous Kane County Flea Market, also in St. Charles, set up to show off classic advertising, vintage arcade games and a selection of restored outboard motors from the 1920s-1940s priced from \$900 to \$2,300. Robinson split his time between the Chicagoland show

and duties at the flea market for the weekend, calling both shows a “real fun experience for both buying and selling.”

Twenty-one year Chicagoland regular Art Herzog traveled to the show from Flushing, Mich. Catching many an eye at his booth was a 1930s coin operated 26-by 15-inch Dutch Pool table priced at \$2,600 and a 20-inch-tall oak Ferris Wheel cigar-winning gambling device for \$995.

“I think this is a prototype machine” said Bill Rawski of Chicago, pointing to a 2 1/2-foot-tall Stewart McGuire one penny metal vending machine, adding that “it’s either for peanuts or a single cigarette.” The odd-ball device could be purchased for \$800. Radio collectors hovered around his booth to admire 1930s Motorola Catalan butterscotch color radio priced at \$3,900.

Advertising collectors had a large selection to admire and purchase at the booth of Bruce and Donna Weir, who traveled 4 hours from Effingham, Ill. A late 1800s tin face “Governess” 30-inch-tall advertising dye cabinet could grace your home for \$1,200 and a 6-drawer 22-inch-tall refinished late 1800s Clark spool cabinet was offered for \$1,800.

A couple from Texas, Betsy and Tim Halter of Argyle, stopped at Weirs booth to admire and purchase a 15-inch-tall horse shaped windmill weight for \$950. The couple pointed out that the horse was unusual because it “had the full un-broken bob tail.”

Still more vintage advertising was shown by first-time dealers Greg and Anne Rosenak of Peoria, Ill. Of special interest was a 16-inch tall 1930s electric advertising automaton, \$1,200 and a 9-inch-tall Kool cigarette lighter, \$650.

Both recent and vintage juke boxes were playing at the booth of Mike O’Connor, Lisle, Ill. A restored Seeburg 100 juke that plays 45 rpm records was priced at \$6,500, while a new Rockola Bubbler that plays 100 CDs could make music at your place for \$5,500. The 18-year show veteran said “I’m a local guy and everything I sell is setup and guaranteed.”

Many people stopped to admire, play and purchase the arcade and pinball machines offered by Pat Hamelet of Chicago Pinball. All ages were attracted to a Data East Jurassic Park game, circa 1992 priced at \$2,600, a 1991 Midway Cruisin’ World auto race game with rare 27-inch monitor for \$1,800 and two bowling machines, offered for \$2,600 and \$2,800 each.

“I’ve been showing at Chicagoland forever,” chuckled Michael Pacak of Canfield, Ohio, who showed a large selection of electronic pinball games. Many folks stopped to admire, and play, a 1976 Elton John Captain Fantastic, \$1,200; a 1990 Simpsons (patterned after the popular television show) \$1,350, and an early 1960s Williams Soccer pinball for \$595.

Dealers at the twice yearly event reported a range of reactions, from “best show I’ve ever had” to “a slow sales event.”

The fall show will be held Nov. 14, 15 and 16 at Pheasant Run Resort.

Dealers can get information from co-promoter Bob Traynoff at 1-847-244-9263. Show information is available from co-promoter Kevin Greco at 1-815-353-1593, or www.chicagolandshow.com.



Frank Zygmunt Jr and Sr. show off an early 1900s quarter sawn oak Seeburg KT coin operated nickelodeon music machine that played a variety of instruments, priced \$22,500.

A father son team from Medina, Ohio, John and Brian Fifer showed off a pair of early 1900s peanut machines at the April event.





Show co-promoters (from left) Bob and Penny Traynoff, 11-year-old son, Sam along with Kevin and Dawn Grego check out the malt machines displayed at Chicagoland.



Nicholas Grego 7, and 11-year-old Sam Traynoff check out the E.E. Jr. coin-op basketball game shown at the April event. They are sons of the shows co-promoters.

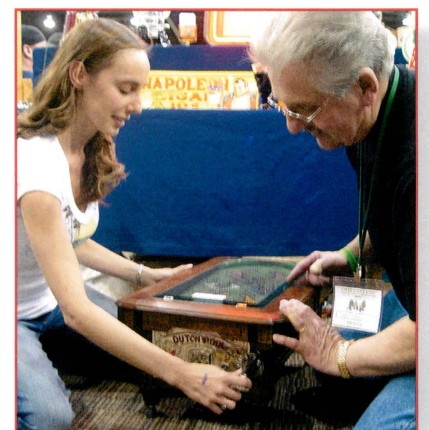
Canadian shoppers Janet Stewart and Dave Gaudet check out the lifesize animated Humpty Dumpty at the Chicagoland show.



Ten-year-old Nichols Kindness, disguised as advertising character Mr Peanut, makes a music selection from a juke box offered by dealer Mike O'Connor, Lisle, Ill. The lad, from Bloomington, Ill., attended the show with his dad, Robert Kindness.



After "about 50 hours of restoration," this one penny Mills QT slot machine was offered for \$2,250 at the spring show.



Dealer Art Herzog, Flushing, Mich., demonstrates a countertop coin operated pool table for shopper Jessica Kotwitz of Janesville, Wis.

Silver King O.K. Gum Trade and Check Vending Machine No. 101

by John Carini

On May 2nd my wife and I decided to take a 1-day road trip. We had seen an ad for a farm auction to be held in Angelo, WI. The ad indicated slot-machine, gum type, and also listed a peanut machine. We logged on to the website, and found the peanut machine, a yellow porcelain cast iron Simon's Model A. The photo for the slot machine was rather grainy. I couldn't tell exactly what it was, so called the auctioneer. He explained the Simon's Model A peanut machine was in really good working condition. He couldn't tell me much about the slot machine except it was old, not working, and missing quite a few parts. He did give me the owners name and phone number for further questions on the slot, and I did give him a call. He told me he purchased the machine 35 years ago. It was a 5 cent machine, and gave out gum (didn't pay out). He also said when he purchased it, it was mounted to a wood cabinet, but that somehow through the years the two parts were separated and the cabinet was lost.



On the day of the auction, it was cold and raining hard. The auction was in the middle of nowhere, and the contents of the auction was mostly farm equipment and old household items. Even the Simon's Model A, which the auctioneer told me worked, was actually frozen solid and part of the machine was in a plastic bag. The trade machine was rather nasty, with a wet, rusty mechanism that was only partially there, and warped wood. The front emblem/marquee was missing. I met up with the owner, and he again confirmed he couldn't find the wood case. It was a Silver King O.K. Gum Trade and Check Vending Machine from the 1920's. Quite a rare piece, but in really poor shape.

The peanut machine came up first, and I stopped bidding at \$150. Two others kept bidding, until it sold for \$235. The trade machine, up next, had 4 bidders including me and a phone bid from Ala-

bama. I felt certain based on the condition of the trade, I could get it for under \$500. But I've been at other auctions, where trade stimulators were called slot machines by the auctioneer, and it typically drives up the price. In the end, I lost the machine to a final bid of \$725. I was soaking wet, and disappointed I had lost both machines.

But don't give up hunting. I did find 2 nice machines in April. A 1930's Superior Confection Cigarette Trade stimulator at a local antique shop, and a nice early 1900's Kelly Chicago Trade Machine at auction. I'll be retiring in late July, so hope to step-up my antique hunts again!

Editors Note: Silver King Slot resold one week later on EBAY for \$3,057.87!!! Item #320248866580.

IRA WARREN - COIN-OPS INC.

Email: coinop99@aol.com

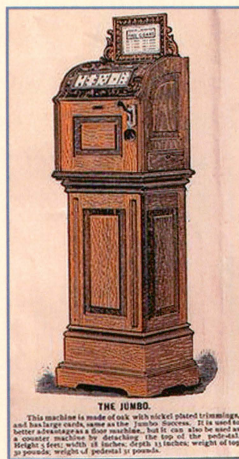
DEALER - COLLECTOR - TRADER

Some Early Poker Machines

Canda Catalog 1897



Canda 1898
Jumbo Giant



Canda
The Jumbo 1898



Patent Date Dec. 10, 1890
Amusement Machine Co.
Earliest Iron Card Machine



Columbia
Manufacturing Co.
1899 - 1900



Tibbils
Manufacturing Co.
1900



Columbia ???



Hamilton
Manufacturing Co.
"The Hamilton"
1902

IRA WARREN - COIN-OPS INC.

Email: coinop99@aol.com

DEALER - COLLECTOR - TRADER

A Few More Poker Machines...



Amusement Machine Co.
Circa 1891
(note 4 in. tall cash box)



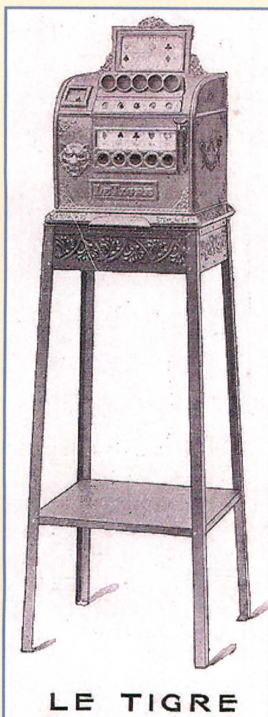
The Victor 1896

Reliance
Novelty Co.



The Trophy 1887

Miscellaneous



Caille Le Tigre
Made for French Market
1911



Warenverkaufsautomat
Modell 2/1
mit 2 Warenschächten. Bestellwort: C.

Geeignet zum Verkauf von Schokoladen, Zuckerwaren, Zigaretten, Tabaken, Zündhölzern, Parfümen, Spirituosen, Fahrkarten, Einlasskarten, Drucksachen, Reiseandenken, Reiseapothecken, Nahrungsmitteln, sowie Waren aller Art in Paketen bis zur Größe von 95-50-20 mm oder in Rollenform bis zur Größe von 100-20 mm Durchmesser. Geldwurf einrichtbar für alle Münzen bis 33 mm Durchmesser.

Ausführung:
Material: Guss- u. Schmiedeeisen.
Zum Aufhängen, Aufstellen und Aufschrauben eingerichtet.
Mit magnet. Mänsprühlein.
Warenschächte leicht u. ohne Werkzeug herausnehmbar.
Innenmechanismus leicht zugänglich.
Nach Aussenverkauf nimmt der Automat kein Geld mehr auf.

Aussenanstrich:
(lackiert) rot, schwarz, gold.

Größe (Aussenmaße):
ganze Höhe . . . ca. 88 cm
Breite 27 "
Tiefe 14 "
Sockel 12"x16"
Spiegel mit Facette . . . ca. 22-19"
Schachtelhöhe . . . ca. 53 "

Nettogewicht ca. 29 kg.
Die zum Aufhängen nötigen Haken sind jedem Automat beigelegt.

Dieser Automat fasst:
ca. 60 Pakete Schokolade etc. in Größe 95-50-8 mm und ca. 34 Pakete Bonbons etc. in Größe 80-50-15 mm oder, wenn mit Rollenschichten ausgestattet, in jedem Rollenschacht ca. 65 Rollen Schokolade etc. in Größe 100-15 mm Durchmesser oder je nach Warendicke mehr oder weniger pro Sorte.

Preis per Stück Mk.



German Catalog Cut
and the Machine
Circa 1900



When it Comes to Vending, it Figures...

Roger Smith



The story of Gideon W. Gates and figural vendors

Though vendors such as the Smiling Sam or the Happy Jap are on almost everyone's list of 'must have' vendors, there is something definitely strange about the idea of eating a handful of peanuts disgorged from the tongue of a severed head. Despite this, vendors made in the likeness of humans and animals were popular around the turn of the last century when novelty was a strong draw for capturing the stray pennies of the day.

G. W. Gates, Inventor

One of the great legacies of the White Vending Company of Chicago Ridge, Illinois, (chronicled in a previous C.O.C.A. Times article) was the disembodied head of an oriental man who vended stick gum from his lips. When the White Vending Company was being incorporated it supplied an inventory of its assets. Listed among the company's inventory entries were 78 Happy Jap heads (valued at \$2.00 each!) and 36 iron brackets for Happy Jap machines. This iconic machine was designed (and both the

design and mechanisms patented) by Gideon W. Gates of David City, Nebraska on August 26, 1902. Both because of the patent date and the heavy cast iron castings used for this machine, it is probable that the first ones were made by the RJ White Manufacturing Company in the old Paul E. Berger plant, even though it appears they were not marketed much before the White Vending Company came into existence in 1907. But who was this Gideon Gates who gave us this legacy?

Gideon Gates (ca 1860 - 1928) joined his father in the bakery business in 1878, only two years after his father had started the enterprise. David City, Nebraska at that

time was a rough frontier town with only sparse signs of prosperity. Early photographs of the town show a row of one-story wood-sided businesses with signs above advertising amenities, such as, a harness shop, “Heale’s Excelsior Meat Market,” the “Butler County Bank” and the Gates bakery. Covered boardwalks front the shops to allow patrons to avoid the mud of the streets. Gates eventually became a



Photo provided by the Boston Studio Project, butlercountygalleries.com

partner and ultimately the sole owner of the Gates Bakery. We will almost certainly never know what prompted this bakery owner to patent the design for a vending device, but surely exposure to the increasingly popular gum and cigar vendors of the time must have had some influence.

(We do know that the Gates bakery had sev-

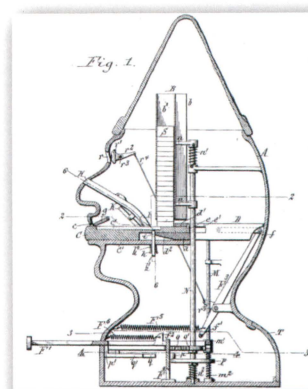
eral coin operated vendors including a Mills Violino.) We can also never know if Gates’ idea was partly the cause of the flurry of design patents filed in the next few years for other vendors that incorporated human or animal representations.

Gideon Gates is buried in the David City Nebraska Cemetery.

Predecessors

It is interesting to note that the Happy Jap was not the first vending machine to be designed in the shape of a head. Filed less than a month earlier (but not granted until March 3, 1903) was a patent for a clown-

shaped vendor. Patent number 721,971 was assigned to the Chicola Manufacturing Company of St. Louis. The device would have allowed for vending up to three different types of products, which would have been delivered through the



tongue. Unlike the Happy Jap and the later Smiling Sam, the coin entered a slot on the nose and this vendor used push rods at the base to effect the vend. It did have animated eyes; a feature that also made a later appearance in the Blinky Eye. It is possible that this vendor was never produced because no other references (such as advertising) or examples of the machine seem to exist.

Even the Chicola vendor was not the first design for a clown head vendor. That distinction should arguably go to the 1901 design patent granted to Harry L. Shafer of Salem, Ohio and assigned, in part, to two other gentlemen from Buffalo, New York. Like the Chicola patent, this design specified a coin slot in the nose and three push buttons protruding from the collar. This clearly mimics the later machine and it would seem highly likely that the connection is not by chance, but no



clear connection between the two has emerged and we will probably never know for sure.

Figural Vendors

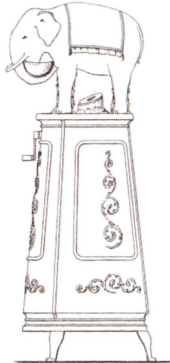
The period of 1904 to 1907 was a particularly prolific period for the patenting of vendors that portrayed people or animals. Designs were submitted and design patents granted for vendors that looked like patriotic frogs, sitting ducks, domesticated bears, circus elephants and playful monkeys. (Astute collectors may recognize the name of Henry C. Traute which



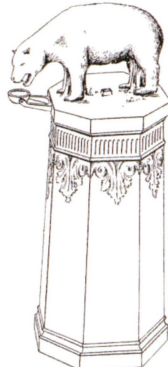
Henry G Heisch
October 11, 1904



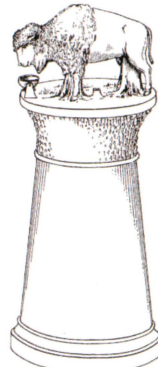
Miner L Killits
February 7, 1905



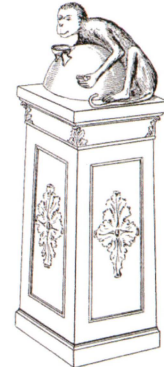
Henry C Traute
October 31, 1905



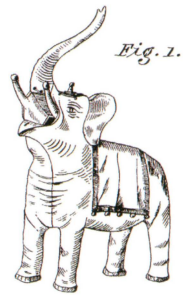
Henry C Traute
February 27, 1906



Henry C Traute
February 27, 1906



Henry C Traute
February 27, 1906



Jerry E Cahill
April 24, 1906

1904

1905

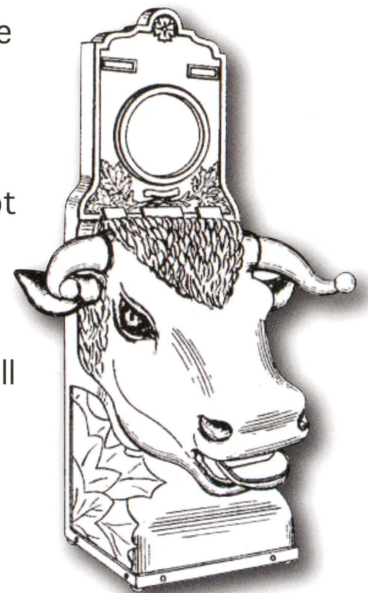
1906

is prominent among those granted patents for these whimsical designs - Traute is also the inventor of the rather plain drum-like Diamond match vendor and, more importantly, the modern matchbook as we know it: Patent number 2,101,111, issued December 11, 1936.)

The year 1907 brought with it patents for two additional vendors that collectors are much more familiar with: The Bull perfume vendor and the Blinkey Eye.

The Bull perfume vendor may be found in several forms, many of which originate from Canadian manufacturers. The design patent that represents the progenitor for these vendors was issued September 10, 1907, and granted to Louis L. Martin (Pat.

#38,793). It should be noted that the patent office is charged only with determining the novelty of a design, not how likely someone is to think that a substance ejected from the snout of a bull would be a desirable fragrance.



The Blinkey Eye Vendor

On August 31, 1907, William Joseph Paul of Pittsburg [sic], Pennsylvania submitted his design for a figural vendor that showed a face in low relief atop a rectangular vendor cabinet. Issued November 26, the same year, design patent number 38,902 is clearly the design for what has come to be called the 'Blinkey Eye' vendor. The design patent does not discuss the internal mechanism, though except for the connection between the button pushed to vend the product and the eyes themselves, the mechanism is similar to that found on other machines of the times.

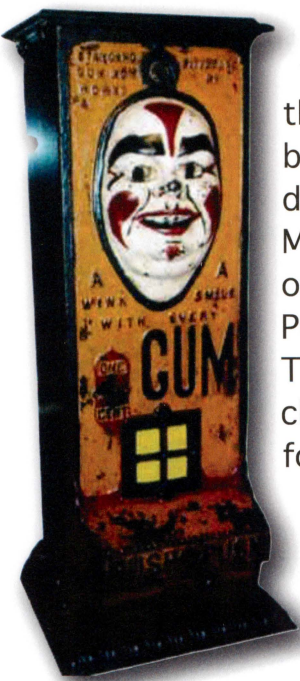
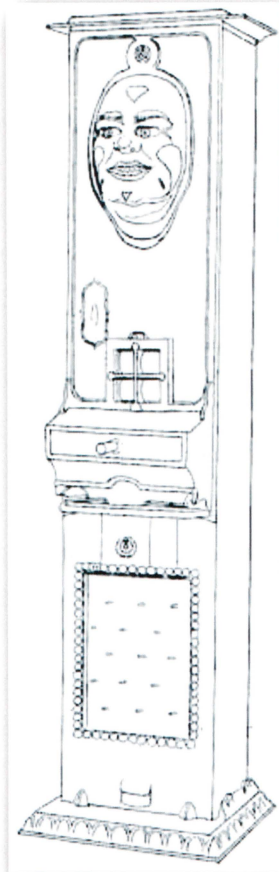
Found in several styles, the general consensus is that with

the exception of the inanimate versions made by Columbus, these vendors were all made by the Standard Gum Machine Works of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. These rare machines are found advertising "A wink and a smile with every 1 cent gum" even though

the rod mechanism that links vending and the animation only results in a blink of the eyes. The front casting is also found advertising Soda Mint Gum and Tutti-Frutti gum (with and without the Adams name).

The Columbus Vending Company also made two look alike versions of the Blinkey - the Model G advertising the Adams Tutti-Frutti gum and the Model L with a more pear-shaped face. In the case of the Columbus machines, the faces are impassive with no mechanism to animate the eyes. Since rampant copying was common in the industry at this time, it is not known if the Columbus version was a licensed copy or simply an unauthorized knockoff, though the latter would seem the most likely.

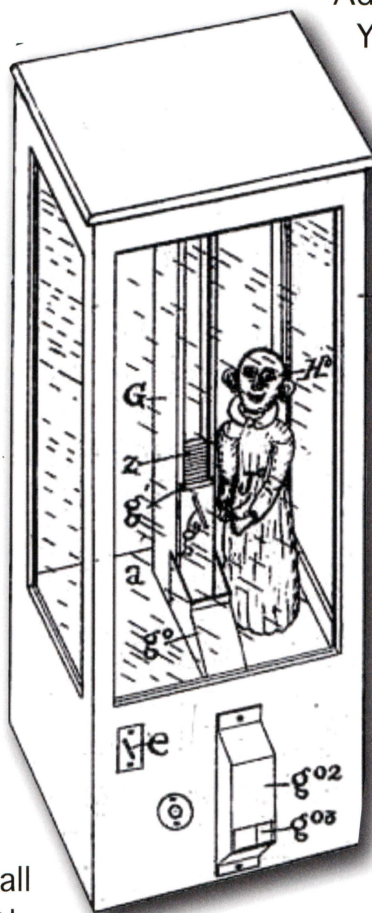
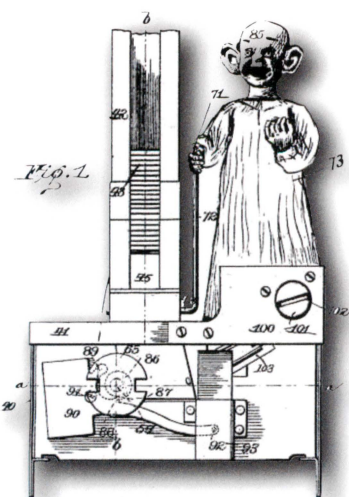
Rarest of all the Blinkey Eye configurations, and the closest to the patent design that shows a penny-drop field below the vendor, is the Blinkey eye combined with a box match vendor labeled "the daisy." This 34 inch tall machine is known with a pin field below and is most likely the oldest of the Blinkey Eye machines since it most closely resembles the 1907 patent.



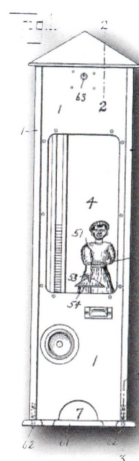
The Yellow Kid and Others

No discussion of figural vendors can be complete without a nod to the Yellow Kid and his vending progeny the Professor, various policemen and clowns, or the army of various diminutive bakers with their gumball producing ovens.

Frank F. Pulver of Rochester, New York, submitted his patent for what became the very popular Little Kid vending machine at the end of 1897. The patent that was subsequently granted (May 30, 1899, and assigned to Henry H. Pulver) contained all the elements that became the familiar Pulver vendor. Pulver further modified the design in patents granted in 1903 and 1904, and it was these later patents that clearly paved the way for the popular 2-column vendor that became the workhorse of the Pulver line. (Interestingly enough, Henry H. Pulver was granted a 1906 patent for a 3-column version that did not include a figure and apparently was never produced.)



The success of the Yellow Kid vendor sparked a number of imitators. In 1904, Adolph Rydquist, also of Rochester, New York, but working for the Case Manufacturing Company, was granted a patent for a 3-column push button actuated vendor that included the figure of a woman (located on the left side of the machine). Like the Pulver machines, the figure was described as being animated by a clockwork mechanism while the product was vended by the direct action of three plungers associated with three separate coin entries. A subsequent 1907 patent granted to Charles Case and William Mayo, of the same company showed a single column vendor with the figure of a woman on the right side, but this time the woman was shown pointing to a spinning indicator wheel that could be used as a fortune telling or gambling enhancement. Little is known about this company or if any of these machines were actually produced.



Also patented in 1904, was the Niagara Vendor. Granted to Abram Q. Allis of Penn Yan, New York, this patent showed great similarity to that of the first Pulver machine. Despite the obvious apparent overlap, we know that the Niagara Vendor was actually produced, though it is very rarely found today.



Easier to locate today are examples of the Manikin or Scoopy Vendor produced in various forms by several different manufacturers over the years. While not exactly figural in outward design, the presence and machinations of these captive characters were clearly the selling point for enticing a sale from an enthralled child or reluctant parent.

On April 4, 1927, Perley L. Ormiston of Portland, Oregon, filed a patent application simply called "Apparatus for dispensing

globular articles." Granted August 27, 1929 (Pat # 1,725,965) this highly detailed set of descriptions and drawings formed the basis for all the various incarnations of the Manikin, Baker Boy and Scoopy vendors made over the years by the Manikin Vending Com-

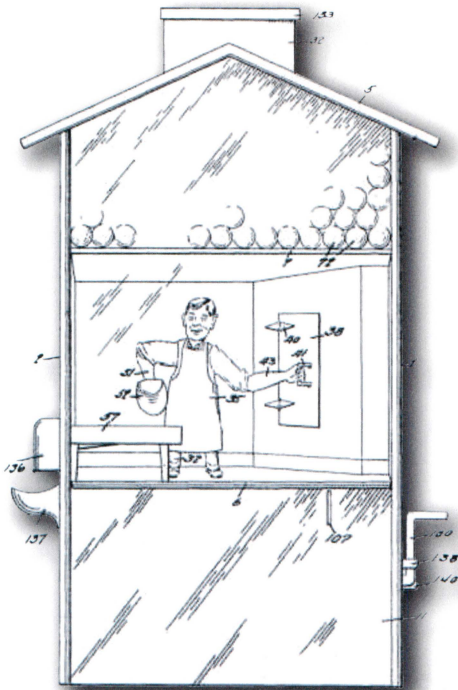
pany in the 1920s and the Harris Gaylord Manufacturing Company and Scoopy Manufacturing Company in the 1950s. While the painting of the figure and the case styles of these various vendors varies, the mechanism and action of these vendors remains unchanged - a testament to the robustness of the original patent.

Other rare examples of vendors the used figures to draw in sales include the 1904

Loop the Loop (made by Mercer Manufacturing Company) or the 1909 Caille Brothers Company Teddy Bear. In each case an animated figure (a clown and a trained bear, respectively) supplied inducement and entertainment to the customer. The rarity of these machines today might suggest that their success was not as great as for some of the other figural vendors mentioned.

The Gates Legacy

One of the most obvious legacies of Gideon Gates is the Smilin' Sam From Alabama', the Salted Peanut Man. This is the great peanut vendor that delivered a handful of peanut from the tongue of a disembodied head. Made in 1931 by the General Merchandise Company and reproduced again in the past few years, this vendor can be found in a number of colors and configurations. The sturdy mechanism of this vendor had little to go wrong with it and it was made in cast aluminum to resist the salt of its product. This vendor is a clear descendant of the original Happy Jap machine invented by Gideon Gates and is a tangible reminder of what it took to "get a head" in vending.





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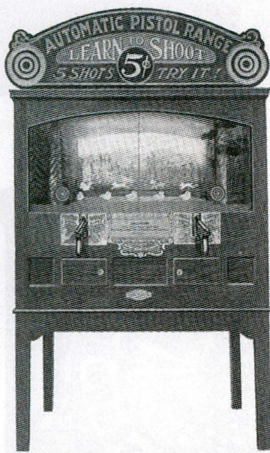


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1929 Version is Larger Than
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Please contact me and let me know which Exhibit Supply catalogs you have, even if you don't want to sell them. Known: 1919, '22, '28, '29, and a popular undated one (1931 or 32?) I'm compiling a list to post on the www.klov.com and www.arcade-museum.com web sites.

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You could be selling yourself \$1000s short if you don't call me for a second opinion.

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“SLOTS TO DO ON VACATION”

By Jimmy Rosen

Recently I was on vacation in Truckee, California, not far from Reno, NV. My wife and kids wanted to experience skiing in this part of the country. I am not a skier so I decided to do some coin-op exploring in the area.

One day, I visited the **Nevada Gambling Museum in Virginia City, NV (inside Palace Emporium Mall, #20 South C Street)**. Admission was only \$1.50. I was the only one there. Honestly, I didn't expect much. But I was wrong. What a terrific collection of machines and they were beautifully displayed. Many rare ones too. I recommend going there and also spending time in Virginia City. What a great town.

On a different day, I traveled to the **Nevada State Museum (600 N Carson St, 775-687-4810)** in Carson City, NV to see the **Fey Slot Machine Collection**. A truly historic display! I was so excited to see a Fey Liberty Bell slot in person knowing only a few exist. Interestingly, the Nevada State Museum building is the old Carson City mint where US coins were produced from 1870-1893. They still have an old coin press inside that they use periodically for making commemorative



Fey Slot Machine Collection



Liberty Bell Slot Machine
Silver Medallion

tion and to place an order, call the **Nevada State Museum 775-687-4810, ext. 239 or 245**.

tive medallions. At the end of April, the museum released a limited edition commemorative Liberty Bell silver coin. I highly recommend getting one. They are only \$40 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information



Ace Distributing

Since he lives in Reno, I was hoping to meet Marshall Fey and talk about the museum collection and his family history, but when we spoke on the phone he was getting ready to leave for the Chicagoland Show. I told him I would try again the next time I visit the area.



David Armstrong

I also had a chance to stop by **Ace Distributing (1680 Pittman Ave, 775-359-0695)** in Sparks, NV. There I met Phil Anderson, former slot operator who now sells machines to collectors. He had a warehouse full of them. Another fun visit.

Fortunately I brought along my list of C.O.C.A. members and saw there were several in the area. By chance I called David Armstrong. I told him I was a fellow C.O.C.A. member in the area on vacation and asked if he had any machines to look at. He said he had a "few" counter games. (It turns out he was being very modest.) He couldn't have been nicer on the phone and told me to

come over. I pulled into his driveway about 20 minutes later. His garage door was up and I took a quick glance inside. He had several machines, and many were in varying degrees of restoration. His workbench was covered with parts and a few mechanisms. It was a great sight.

I rang the doorbell and figured we chat a little bit and spend most of the time in the garage where I assumed that was his whole collection. Well, I was wrong. He had restored slots all over the house-- the garage was just the work area. Counting all the machines, there must have been over 50. We spent a couple hours talking and looking at machines. It was one of the highlights of my trip. Thanks again for your time David!

This was one of the best vacations in recent memory. I didn't bore my family by dragging them to see slot machine collections and they didn't ask me to come skiing. I can't wait to go back again.



Ace Distributing



Nevada Gambling Museum



Ace Distributing



Nevada Gambling Museum



David Armstrong

TROPHY GOLD

By Bill Howard

A TRIBUTE TO BOB LEGAN



Early on in my collecting days I decided to collect the most desirable of the coin operated golf machines manufactured between 1920 and 1945. Over time I compiled a list of nine machines from my collection of ads and, methodically I was fortunate to capture six of the nine on the list. Then came the Fair Weigh Golf Scale, the subject of an article I wrote in the March 2003, COCA magazine, and finally, African Golf, also featured in that addition of the COCA magazine. In almost every one of these eight acquisitions, I was successful in no small part due to the help of friends. Such was also the case when fortune allowed me to claim the ninth and final machine on my list, Trophy Golf, the subject of this article.

Automatic Inventions, Inc. of New York City manufactured Trophy Golf in 1930. To my knowledge only four examples exist, all at one time or another passing through the house of the late restorer, collector and good friend Bob Legan of Mentor, Ohio.

The story begins about ten years ago when Bob invited me to his home for dinner. As I entered Bob and his wife Maddy's home through their garage, my eyes lit up like a Christmas tree. There, against the wall in various forms of restoration, were two Trophy Golf machines. All I had seen of this

machine was my ad from the February 1930, issue of Automatic Age. Up to this point that was the closest I had come to knowing about the existence of this wonderful machine. Bob explained that a collector had found four Trophies and had given them to Bob to restore. He had completed two of the four and had sent them on their way. Of the two remaining to be finished, the person who had located the four spoke for one, and the fourth was one Bob had an option on buying as part of his restoration deal initially. He indicated that he wasn't sure if he would keep the fourth or simply sell it. When the third left Bob's house, he told me he

was not keeping the fourth example, and I would get first chance to buy it when restoration was completed. I was ecstatic, because I knew that whatever Bob had anything to do with was done to perfection. When I asked Bob when his restoration might be completed, he smiled and reminded me what Michelangelo told the Pope when asked when the Sistine Chapel would be completed, "It will be completed when it's done".

I was not worried as years passed. There were two things among others that you knew about Bob – you didn't rush him, and you never had to doubt his word.

More years passed, and some of my friends did get worried. Some suggested that I press Bob and go directly to the still technical owner of the fourth un-restored machine, whose identity I knew. But I had Bob's word, and I felt that was all I needed.

Unfortunately, the plot soon thickened. First, the value of this machine had soared since Bob made his commitment to me. I began to feel like the guy who tried to block one of Daryl Dawkins shots as his hand was on top of the ball and kept going higher and higher until he had to let go when old "Chocolate Thunder", as he was known then in the NBA, stuffed it through the

basket. Second, Bob called me with the news that one of the nation's top coin op dealers had been to Bob's friend's house and discovered not only his example, but the un-restored one Bob was still working on. Being the successful businessman this dealer was, he offered a handsome price and insisted on buying both. Bob said he was sorry, but could not do much other than collect his full restoration bill.

Fortunately, this story ends well because this dealer was also a friend and a true gentleman. After some phone calls and some crying, whaling and accommodating on my part, the dealer friend agreed to revise his demand and only purchase one, leaving the one still at Bob's to go to me. Bob not only kept his word to me, but sold it at a fraction of what he could have commanded and must have known I could not have paid.

So again, I have a machine in my collection due in large part to friendship. In Bob's case, it was delivered shortly before his untimely passing. The story has one final twist. I finally discovered why it took so long for Bob to complete his "Sistine Chapel". A minor adjustment needed for the golf ball to be dispensed if the player hit each hole in succession without a miss had stumped him. After a couple false starts at finishing only to find the ball still hung up, Bob called on another friend, Smiley Dubena, who solved the mystery. As you can imagine, the Trophy Golf sits in my house surrounded by many fond memories.

Bob pointed out that the four examples known vary slightly in design because of a modification by the manufacturer in later models. In any case it is a cut above Chester Pollard and Hoot-Mon Golf arcade games. If you were successful, you got an actual golf ball vended to you. This vendor feature, plus the beauty of the playfield and background, places The Trophy Golf atop the field of coin operated golf games. My example is pictured, and is also featured on page 158 of my book, Every Picture Tells a Story.



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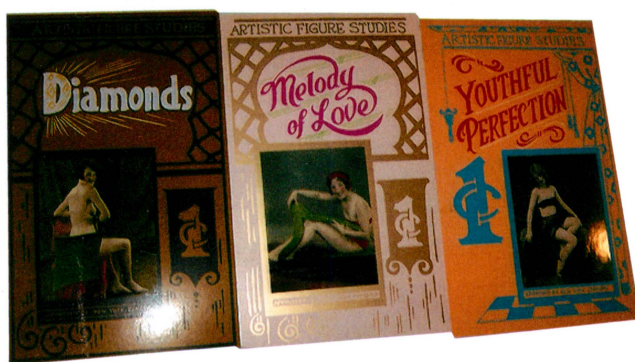


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Tales of the Hunt

Hosted by Jack Freund

This issue features submissions from Jim and Merlyn Collings from Brevard, North Carolina as well as from Herb Weinfield, Northbrook Illinois.

Let's start with Jim and Merlyn's tale. It begins on a Saturday afternoon. Can you believe that this find was still there, waiting to be found, on a Saturday AFTERNOON!!!

A couple of years ago Merlyn and I attended the annual sidewalk antique show in Hendersonville, North Carolina. It was a very hot, sunny Saturday afternoon in July and difficult to spot "treasures". We did, however, spot a bright yellow object while crossing the street. Merlyn exclaimed, "Jimmy, it's a Pulver machine!". I said, "I've never seen a yellow one before". While looking the machine over, we noticed there was a red plastic Woody Woodpecker puppet inside the machine. My first thought was...Woody needed a new home! Merlyn concurred. The seller was very generous with his price and we brought our "find" home.

We feel the machine could be new old stock. It has a very smooth painted finish, unlike the painted "crinkle" surfaces on the Pulvers made in the 50's. The inside of the machine, including the back door, is silver, unlike the usual black color. The outside lettering and the window grid are finished in black. The lettering above the coin entry says: MINTS/GUM in black (Photo 1). Usually this reads MINT/SPICE or TOO CHOOS/GUM.

The really unusual thing about our "Find" is the gum mouth, or gum cup. It is YELLOW PORCELAIN, held by two porcelain rivets! (Photo 2). When



Photo 1

Pulver was about to go out of business in 1954 and may have used any and all available parts, resulting in this variation. Woody and the mechanism work like a charm and we enjoy him very much.



Photo 2

Editor's note: It is very possible that this cabinet came from the factory with smooth yellow paint. I have a RED painted Pulver that has SMOOTH red paint, not wrinkle paint. Woody Woodpecker or the Clown puppet are the correct puppets for the painted cabinet Pulvers and the correct color of the gum tubes is lime green, not red.

Now we come to a letter sent to me by Herb Weinfeld. It's not about a specific find, but it demonstrates Herb's belief that a find can come from almost anywhere....you just have to cover all the possibilities. Here is the letter:

Dear Jack,
Following are two Tales Of The Hunt. Each illustrates the value of PATIENCE and my philosophy of having the machines come to me. If I live long enough I should have quite a large collection of slots.

Story #1) We moved into our dental practice in 1988 and laid out the new office so that there was a three reeler in each of the four rooms in which patients are seen. In addition, I posted the following sign above each slot....DR. HERB IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR OLD SLOT MACHINES. DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE CAN FIND ONE?

By 2007 I've gotten one WAR EAGLE (the patient was going to put it in a garage sale) and one Mills QT (Oh, it's been in our basement for years). Both machines in very nice, as found

condition, and reasonably priced.

TWO MACHINES IN 18 YEARS!!! Is this an American Indoor Record? No complaints. Two is better than none.

Story #2) In 1995 our youngest daughter, Lois, Married Hal, a great guy and a wonderful, all around person. Hal is a Pawnbroker and has a shop in the Greater Chicago area.

Soon after the wedding I asked him to put up a sign in his store saying "WE BUY OLD SLOT MACHINES...ANY CONDITION, WORKING OR NOT".

To date this has produced one Mills Hightop. ONE MACHINE IN 11 YEARS!!! The sign is still up. Who knows what tomorrow will bring?

I think our members will find this interesting. WHAT FUN IT ALL IS.

Please send your "tale" to:

Jack Freund, PO Box 4, Springfield WI 53176
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